



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House Passes Legislation Expanding Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Arizona House of Representatives today passed legislation ([SB 1431](#)) to expand Arizona’s Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program and add more fiscal responsibility, academic accountability, and transparency to the program.

“Ultimately, education reform ought to be about what’s in the best interest of students and parents, not the educational system,” said House Majority Leader John Allen (R-15), sponsor of the House version of the bill. **“By expanding the eligibility to students in all of Arizona’s public schools, ESAs will empower parents and increase educational opportunities for students.”**

“This legislation wasn’t about public schools or private schools – it was about Arizona’s kids getting the education their parents think best. Today was a very good day for Arizona families,” said Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17).

Major components of the bill include:

- Phased-in expansion of ESA opportunities to all Arizona public school students.
- Requirement that ESA students in grades 3-12 annually take an assessment that measures their educational proficiencies.
- Requirement that the Arizona Department of Education openly disclose all expenditures made as part of the ESA program.
- Opportunities for all income levels by extending a higher amount for families 250% or below the federal poverty level.
- Continued limitations on enrollment in the program to allow for reasonable and predictable growth.

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